



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Border Patrol Agents seize 775 pounds of marijuana *Remove another \$620,640 worth of drugs from market place*

DEL RIO, Texas -- Border Patrol Agents from the Del Rio Sector seized 775.8 pounds of marijuana Wednesday and Thursday in three separate incidents.

At approximately 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, Agents working at the Border Patrol Checkpoint on Highway 90 near Cline seized 343 pounds of marijuana valued at \$274,720. While determining the nationality of the driver of a 2001 Chrysler sedan, the agent smelled an odor consistent with that of marijuana. The agents searched the truck after obtaining permission from the driver and discovered numerous bundles containing what tests revealed was marijuana. The marijuana, driver and vehicle were turned over to Texas Department of Public Safety.

At approximately 8 p.m. Thursday, Agents from the Del Rio Station patrolling the Vega Verde area observed two individuals hiding in the cane. As the agent approached, he spotted a third individual who saw him and ran toward the Rio Grande River. The other two also ran, with the three returning to Mexico. Agents made a search of the area, and discovered 4 large sugar sacks containing what tests revealed was marijuana. The marijuana weighed 223.6 pounds and was valued at \$178,880. The marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency in Del Rio.

At approximately 9 p.m. Thursday, Agents from the Del Rio Station seized 208.8 pounds of marijuana near the Del Rio Port of Entry. Agents working the Vega Verde area observed several vehicles and attempted to perform an immigration stop. The first vehicle failed to stop and headed for the port of entry. The agents called for backup, that responded to the Port of Entry, where the driver bailed out of the vehicle, but, was caught by agents. The marijuana, valued at 167,040, the driver and occupants of both vehicles, and the two vehicles were turned over to U.S. Customs Service.

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